

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02577 111657Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 /069 W
-----120245Z 010263 /66

R 111522Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1648
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL PORT SAID
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR PINT EG
SUBJECT: NATION SUPPORTS SADAT IN REFERENDUM

REF: CAIRO 2497

1. DEPUTY MININTERIOR NABAWI ANNOUNCED THAT EGYPTIAN PEOPLE GAVE SADAT'S EXCEPTIONAL SECURITY AND TAX MEASURES OVERWHELMING SUPPORT IN FEBRUARY 10 REFERENDUM (REFTEL). VOTER TURN-OUT WAS HIGH, ALLEGEDLY 9.2 OF 9.5 MILLION ELIGIBLE VOTERS. AFFIRMATIVE VOTE WAS IN THE IVORY SNOW RANGE OF 99.42 PERCENT, ACCORDING TO NABAWI'S OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. ONLY SOME 54,000 VOTED AGAINST MEASURE.

2. SLIGHT APPREHENSION DETECTIBLE YESTERDAY SEEMED
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TOTALLY DISPELLED TODAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, A QUIETLY NORMAL DAY OF REST. MININT OFFICIALS WERE ON ALERT FEB 10 FOR ANY MISCHIEF, BUT AS FAR AS WE KNOW THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS. ALTHOUGH REFERENDUM WENT SMOOTHLY, GOE ALSO PUBLICIZED ARRESTS OF 44 "COMMUNISTS" AGITATING FOR BOYCOTT OF REFERENDUM (23 IN MENIA AL QAMH IN UPPER EGYPT, 7 IN CAIRO, 1 IN

HELWAN, 6 IN DELTA VILLAGES, 1 IN ALEXANDRIA, AND
6 IN PORT SAID.)

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS, GOE HAS DECIDED TO RE-OPEN
UNIVERSITIES AS PLANNED, FEB 12. THERE IS SOME
APPREHENSION OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN FIRST FEW
DAYS AFTER RE-OPENING, BUT GOE APPARENTLY FEELS
CONFIDENT IT CAN HANDLE ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENT.

4. COMMENT: WHILE MAJORITY OF EGYPTIANS DID WE BELIEVE
APPROVE NEW MEASURES, PERCENTAGE OF VOTER TURNOUT AND
APPROVAL SEEMS INFLATED. WE HAVE NO WAY MAKE INDEPENDENT
JUDGMENT, BUT WE AND OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES WERE STRUCK
BY OBVIOUS APATHY OF MANY OF OUR EGYPTIAN CONTACTS.
WE KNOW OF MANY EGYPTIANS WHO VOTED IN PA ELECTIONS,
BUT DID NOT BOTHER TO DO SO THIS TIME. WE RATHER SUSPECT
GOE TOOK NECESSARY STEPS TO INSURE AN OVERWHELMINGLY
POSITIVE VOTE. NOR DO WE EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE
MAY HAVE BEEN SOME CONTRIVED MININT RIGGING OF BALLOT
BOXES IN ORDER PRODUCE SEEMINGLY HEAVY VOTER TURNOUT.
SADAT WILL DOUBTLESS BE HEARTENED BY RESULTS OF REFERENDUM,
BUT WE ARE STILL CONCERNED THAT HE IS TOO INSULATED
FROM EGYPTIAN PUBLIC'S WORRIES. REFERENDUM RESULTS
WILL ALSO STRENGTHEN PRIMIN SALEM'S POSITION WITH THE
PRESIDENT, WHICH HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT SHAKEN AS RESULT
JAN. 18-19 RIOTS. IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE, HOWEVER, TO
READ REFERENDUM RESULTS AS A SADAT POPULARITY POLL.
BURNISHING SADAT'S IMAGE, WHICH WAS TARNISHED BY
JAN 18-19 RIOTS, WILL TAKE TIME AND SOME POLITICAL AND
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ECONOMIC SUCCESSES.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFERENDUMS, POPULAR SUPPORT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO02577
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770050-0528
Format: TEL
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770251/aaaabsyh.tel
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Litigation History:
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